

From: Elbert Hannah
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

In 1992 I was highly recruited by Microsoft to be on their NT Beta support team. I was very reluctant and agreed to interview at the urging of a close friend who worked there.

Throughout the interview process, I questioned whether Microsoft truly wanted someone like me, since my background was strictly Unix. And, I hated DOS, and I hated Windows, and I hated all of their products. They assured me they wanted me badly BECAUSE of my Unix background...

This was during the time when Microsoft touted their new NT Operating System as Open and POSIX compliant -- i.e., they were ready to play the Open Architecture card.

I accepted their 4th offer...

On Friday of my first week I attended an internal presentation on the NT POSIX subsystem. The project manager, Margaret (I don't remember her last name) opened the presentation with the following remarks: (and I am summarizing here):

Margaret: Before we get started here with the POSIX Subsystem, I want to make one thing perfectly clear -- we have NO interest in this subsystem... The POSIX subsystem is just a check box so we can qualify to get government contracts. We don't care about it, we don't intend to support it, it's just a checkbox.

Then Margaret introduced the ENTIRE POSIX subsystem team, a guy named Matt!

Afterwards, I called and talked DIRECTLY with Larry Kroger about what I had heard. I recounted what I had heard and he made no counter argument. I asked him what I was to tell people asking questions about the POSIX subsystem on the support forums. Larry said, "Tell them we don't support it." I asked what I should tell these people about MS' future plans for the POSIX subsystem. Larry said, "Tell them we have none."

I resigned the following week -- forfeiting "in the door" stock options that have since exceeded \$3M in profit value.

Thought you'd be interested in MS' behind-closed-door "policy". And, if you have any doubts about the authenticity of my experience, check with MS' HR department about my employment at that time... Also, the "presentation" I described was video-taped, as were all of their presentations, so the meeting should be preserved in their libraries.

-Elbert Hannah